

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

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XMB-07 COME-00 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 AGR-20 SCI-06 IGA-02

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, MR, US

SUBJECT: US INVESTOR INTEREST IN MOROCCAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN

REF : RABAT 128

1. DEPTOFF (AF/N) OUTLINED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR US BUSINESS UNDER NEW MOROCCAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN AT MEETING IN NEW YORK JANUARY 28 ARRANGED BY AMERICAN-ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR BANKS, OIL COMPANIES, INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL FIRMS ATTENDED. RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION, MUCH OF WHICH WAS DRAWN FROM EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT SURVEY OF ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR (REFTEL), WAS ENCOURAGING. DETAILED ABSTRACT FROM EMBASSY

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SURVEY WAS DISTRIBUTED TO BUSINESSMEN PRESENT AND WILL ALSO

BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH AAACI TO OTHER MEMBER FIRMS. COPIES OF GOM PLAN SUMMARY IN ENGLISH AND NEW INVESTMENT CODES ALSO DISTRIBUTED.

2. ALTHOUGH IT STILL TOO EARLY TO GUAGE OVERALL EFFECT OF PRESENTATION, SOME IMMEDIATE RESULTS WERE NOTABLE. VICE PRESIDENT OF AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL AND REPRESENTATIVE OF ARTHUR D. LITTLE CONSULTANTS, SAID THEY PLAN TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO GOM FOR JOINT MISSION TO MOROCCO TO SURVEY AGRIBUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES UNDER PLAN. A.D. LITTLE ALSO INTENDS TO DISCUSS GENERAL CONSULTING PROPOSALS WITH GOM FOR FULL SCOPE OF ECONOMIC PROJECTS UNDER PLAN. PARTNER OF BLUE CHIP INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM, MORGAN STANLEY, ALSO STATED INTENTION TO GIVE SERIOUS STUDY TO OPPORTUNITIES UNDER PLAN.

3. DEPTOFF EMPHASIZED TO BUSINESSMEN THAT THEY CAN COUNT ON SPECIAL EFFORT BY DEPARTMENT, OTHER USG AGENCIES AND EMBASSY IN PROMOTING AMERICAN BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN MOROCCO NOT ONLY BECAUSE OPPORTUNITIES SEEM PROMISING, BUT ALSO BECAUSE USG WISHES TO ASSIST GOM IN PROMOTION MOROCCO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS SO BECAUSE STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONS SERVE LONG-RANGE US INTEREST. POINT SEEMS TO HAVE MADE POSITIVE IMPRESSION.

4. WHILE IT PREMATURE TO DISCUSS DETAILS FOREGOING BUSINESS REACTION TO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES UNDER PLAN WITH MOROCCANS, EMBASSY MAY NOTE AS APPROPRIATE TO GOM OFFICIALS THAT INITIAL SOUNDINGS BY DEPARTMENT INDICATE ACTIVE US PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST IN FIVE-YEAR PLAN EXISTS AND THAT IN DEPARTMENT'S JUDGMENT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE EARLY GOM RECONSTITUTION NEW INVESTMENT MISSION TO US IN PLACE OF THAT WHICH WAS TO BE HEADED BY LATE PLAN CHIEF IMANI IN FEBRUARY. KISSINGER

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